

Appl. No. 10/629,271
Response dated April 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 16, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are now canceled, and new claims 24-46 are now added in this application.

1. Restriction of Claims 1-18 and 19-23 Under 35 U.S.C. 121

Claims 1-18, drawn to a device, classified in class 148, subclass 33, and claims 19-23, drawn to a process, classified in class 438, subclass 758, are subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121.

The Examiner indicated that during a telephone conversation with Cynthia Mitchell on November 17, 2004, a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group 1, claims 1-18. Applicants hereby affirm the election previously made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group 1, claims 1-18. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute unelected subject matter in related patent applications.

2. Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)

Given that applicants have now canceled claim 1, the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) is believed to be moot.

3. Rejection of Claims 2 and 3 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Given that applicants have now canceled claims 2 and 3, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is believed to be moot.

4. Rejection of Claims 4-6 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Given that applicants have now canceled claims 4-6, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is believed to be moot.

5. Rejection of Claims 7-9 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Given that applicants have now canceled claims 7-9, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is believed to be moot.

6. Rejection of Claims 10-12 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Given that applicants have now canceled claims 10-12, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is believed to be moot.

7. Rejection of Claims 13-15 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Given that applicants have now canceled claims 13-15, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is believed to be moot.

8. Rejection of Claims 16-18 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Given that applicants have now canceled claims 16-18, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is believed to be moot.

- Appl. No. 10/629,271
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9. New Claims 24-46

Applicants have now added new claims 24-46.

Independent claim 24 comprises a semiconductor substrate material for producing a semiconductor substrate, the semiconductor substrate material comprising a multitude of hollow microspheres, each one of the multitude of hollow microspheres having an inner layer and an outer layer, the inner layer comprising a first material, the outer layer comprising a second material, and the first material and the second material differing from one another.

Applicants believe that the prior art of record, either alone or in combination with one another, does not disclose or suggest semiconductor substrate material comprising a multitude of hollow microspheres, ***each one of the multitude of hollow microspheres having an inner layer and an outer layer***, the inner layer comprising a first material, the outer layer comprising a second material, and ***the first material and the second material differing from one another***. Accordingly, applicants believe that independent claim 24 is in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

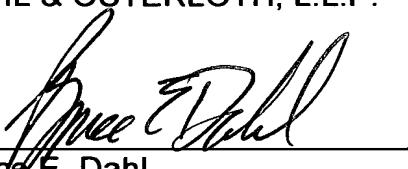
Claims 25-46, which depend either directly or ultimately from independent claim 24, are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the above-identified reasons. Accordingly, allowance of claims 25-46 is respectfully requested.

• Appl. No. 10/629,271
Response dated April 18, 2005
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Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks provided herein, applicants respectfully request the timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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